

The Jungle Book

- book and film

The Jungle Book, written by Rudyard Kipling, was published in the 1890s. It is a collection of stories about many animals, including a pack of wolves. The tales in the book are fables set in the Indian jungle, which use animals with human characteristics to give moral lessons. One of the tales tells the story of a young boy who is adopted by wolves.

In 1967, Walt Disney made the book into a cartoon film. It was very successful, mainly because of the songs sung by the animal characters, and it was equally enjoyed by children and adults.

Mother Wolf

is named 'Raksha the demon' in the film because of her ferocity as a fighter when protecting her cubs. She is a female Indian wolf and urges her wolf pack to accept and adopt a human 'cub' because she has a soft spot for all babies, not just her own cubs.



Meet some of

the characters

Father Wolf

does not have a name in the original stories but, in Disney's film, Father Wolf is named 'Rama' which means pleasant.



Mowgli

is the young hero of *The Jungle Book*. It was often claimed that 'Mowgli' meant frog in the language of the jungle and that the human 'cub' was given this name because, like frogs, he had no fur. However, this is a name Kipling made up.



Shere Khan

is a very arrogant character and regards himself as the Lord of the Jungle.

'Shere' means tiger in Urdu and in Hindi (which are both South Asian languages); 'Khan' is a title to show that he was a chief among tigers. In Disney's film, Shere Khan is the major villain. He is shown as being powerful, deadly and sophisticated - with a very gentle, purring voice. Man's gun and man's fire are the only things Shere Khan fears.

